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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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NORTH VIETNAM: An authoritative foreign policy article reflects Hanoi's concern over the possible outcome of negotiations between its major Communist patrons and the US.

The review, written by Foreign Minister Trinh and published in the October issue of Hanoi's theoretical journal Hoc Tap, is probably designed to reassure cadres that the Vietnamese still have the support of Moscow and Peking. Trinh's presentation, however, could well raise some doubts. By referring to "US tricks aimed at sowing discord between our country and the brotherly countries," Trinh may foster the impression that the Vietnamese have not been fully satisfied by continued Soviet and Chinese protestations of support or by the visits to Hanoi of Soviet President Podgorny and Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsiao-nien.

Trinh also displays great sensitivity over Hanoi's loss of initiative in its negotiations with the US, and promises to improve and "step up" Hanoi's diplomatic activities in support of its war effort. He emphasized diplomacy as a "front of strategic importance"--one which not only reflects the "victories of the military and political struggle" but which has a "real strength of its own."

The article naturally reveals little about what Hanoi specifically intends to do on the diplomatic front. It could presage some reformulation or change in Hanoi's terms for a war settlement, but there is nothing in the text of the article which clearly indicates that this is in the offing. It does appear that Trinh's article constitutes a message to the cadre that diplomatic efforts will be stepped up in the coming period. Although Trinh recognizes the importance of military action and pledges a continuation of protracted warfare which promises total victory eventually, the article suggests that Hanoi believes the war is entering a phase in which diplomatic maneuvering on both sides may play an increased role in the development of the conflict. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Guerrilla Activity Increases in East Pakistan



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PAKISTAN: The tempo of guerrilla activity appears to be increasing in East Pakistan.

There have been almost daily explosions in Dacca, and jute warehouses in nearby Narayanganj have been burned. Bombings have also occurred in the port city of Chittagong. Civil servants in East Pakistan claim the government has lost control of some areas in the Comilla District. The East Pakistani press reports large-scale but unsuccessful attempts [redacted] to take the town of Kasba, but a native of the area says that Kasba has been in insurgent hands for some time.

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Earlier this month, the Indian press reported the fall of Chhatak to the Mukti Bahini. [redacted] [redacted] however, the army has been able to hold the town despite a major effort--extending over a matter of days and possibly in battalion strength--by the guerrillas.

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Elsewhere in East Pakistan, the pace of guerrilla activities fluctuated. The press has also reported heavy fighting at the border post of Kamalpur. There appears to be little fighting in the far northwestern part of the province, but the destruction of the bridge at Santahar has cut rail communications with the remainder of East Pakistan. The Mukti Bahini are not very active in the northern part of Khulna District, but the Sundarbans--a densely forested swamp--is heavily infiltrated. The insurgents still control rural areas of Barisal District. (SECRET)

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USSR-INDIA: The Soviets continue to keep a close eye on India's reaction to developments on the subcontinent.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin's visit to New Delhi on 22-27 October seems to have resulted from Moscow's need to get a fresh reading on India's mood in view of reports of forward military movements in both India and Pakistan. [REDACTED] the visit was hurriedly arranged by the Soviets only 48 hours prior to Firyubin's arrival. The Indo-Pakistani crisis dominated his talks. [REDACTED]

The communique issued at the end of his visit, although contributing to the image of close Soviet-Indian alignment in the present crisis, suggested that Moscow and New Delhi are not in accord on all the issues.

The ranking Soviet military delegation that will arrive in New Delhi today is doubtless intended as a further demonstration of Moscow's support for India. The Soviets may also hope that the presence of the delegation will serve to deter the West Pakistanis from any rash actions during Mrs Gandhi's foreign tour. The delegation will be headed by Deputy Defense Minister Kutakhov, the commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force, but it reportedly will also include representatives from the other branches of the Soviet armed forces. The Soviets will probably inspect the substantial amount of equipment they have sold to the Indian armed forces, and they may also discuss additional Soviet assistance. [REDACTED]

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FRANCE-USSR: Paris did not accede to Soviet efforts to sign a treaty of friendship during the Brezhnev visit.

The French instead have agreed to a 'declaration,' to be signed tomorrow, which updates the one De Gaulle initialed during his visit to Moscow in 1966. [REDACTED] declaration will condemn blocs and affirm support for the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and the inviolability of existing European frontiers. With the document, Paris found a satisfactory middle ground between too close and too distant relations with Moscow.

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Leaders of the two sides also discussed at length the idea of reverse linkage between the Berlin protocol and Bonn's treaties with Russia and Poland. Deputy Political Director of the Quai d'Orsay Jurgensen told a newsman that Pompidou and Brezhnev had agreed in principle to support the signing of the final protocol on Berlin in parallel with Bonn's ratification of the treaties. Such a solution eliminates one possible obstacle to the early convening of a conference on European security, which both leaders endorsed. Moreover, Paris could point out to Bonn that France can play a useful mediating role in respect to Brandt's Ostpolitik.

In regard to the establishment of diplomatic ties between France and East Germany, Brezhnev, who will stop in Pankow on his return to the USSR, did little more than point out that a reckoning on this issue would have to come shortly.

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The major economic achievement of the visit was the ten-year economic agreement under which each country will help build industrial plants in the other. Implementation of the pact will be dependent on agreement by French and Soviet enterprises on specific projects. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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SYRIA-JORDAN: Damascus, which closed its border to Jordanian traffic last July, has eased some of its restrictions.

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[redacted] any Jordanian with a "valid reason" can now enter Syria. Fedayeen units in Syria which could act as an irritant have been moved away from the frontier and relations between border troops are said to be excellent. Amman has been concerned over the significant financial impact the border closure has had on its economy, and recently sent a commercial delegation and the foreign minister to Damascus, where they were told that the border would be opened soon.

President Asad, who had imposed the closure as a gesture of support for the fedayeen in their struggle with King Husayn, reportedly is anxious to restore friendly relations with the Jordanian monarch. Earlier reports, however, had indicated that Syria would delay any formal reopening of the border until some kind of accommodation was worked out between Amman and the Palestinian guerrillas. A Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry source told the US Embassy in Jidda that the mediation talks probably would not be resumed until after the Arab foreign ministers' conference, which will not take place before the last week in November. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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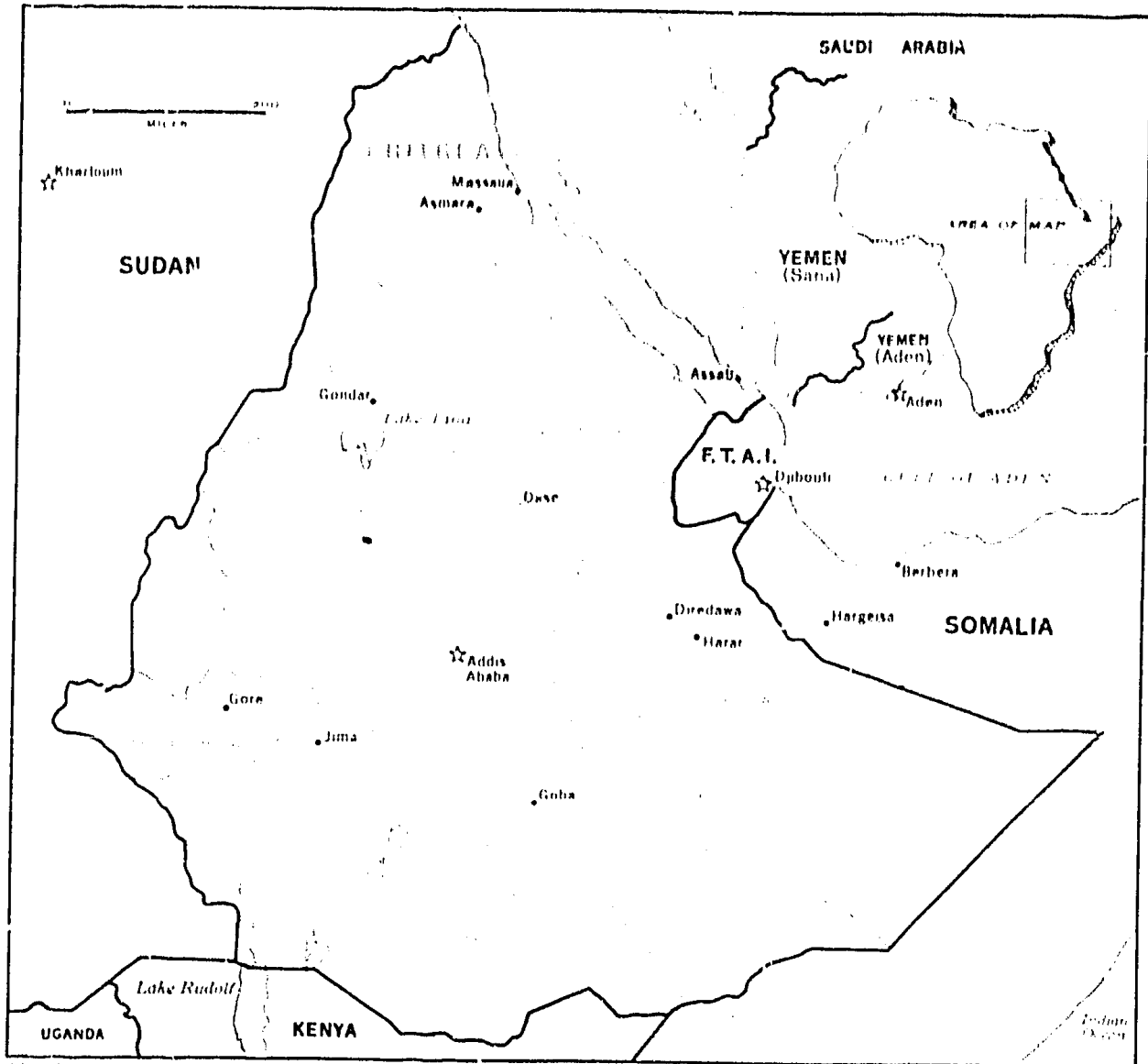
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ARGENTINA: The Lanusse government is facing a new round of labor problems in the politically volatile city of Cordoba.

A near total general strike in that city last week prompted the government to close down the three unions that initiated the strike and to take special security measures in the industrial districts. The headquarters of the two extremist-led unions at the Fiat automotive plant and of the Public Employees Union, whose wage demands touched off the strike, have been occupied by police. In addition, 168 public employees have been dismissed for illegal work stoppages and legal status has been withdrawn from the Fiat unions.

The government's action is aimed at eliminating the extremist and Trotskyist influence in these three major unions in the hope of steering the Cordoba labor confederation back toward a more moderate course. The more moderate Peronist unions, which follow the policies of the national confederation, have steadily lost ground to the Trotskyist and hard-line Peronist unions that have called ten politically motivated strikes so far this year. Labor and student riots in Cordoba contributed, at least indirectly, to the downfall of President Lanusse's two military predecessors and the present government action is an effort to eliminate an important source of opposition to Lanusse's "Grand National Accord."

Lanusse seems to be counting on his generally good relations with Peronists on a national level and on the disenchantment of the Cordoba rank-and-file with political strikes to limit the reaction to the government's moves. Even the more moderate unions in Cordoba, however, will probably feel constrained to demonstrate some active support for the affected unions and further walkouts are likely. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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TUNISIA: An increasingly serious political crisis is developing as the liberal faction of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party continues to press for immediate reforms.

The faction's leader, Ahmed Mestiri, who was suspended from party activities last week, is continuing to press President Bourguiba to modify his [redacted] methods of governing; he may even be moving toward challenging the ailing Bourguiba's continued rule. Mestiri is no doubt looking toward the post-Bourguiba period [redacted]

[redacted] Mestiri wants Bourguiba to endorse and accept the liberal victory at the party congress held earlier this month [redacted]

Prime Minister Nouira, who was asked by Bourguiba to form a new government after the party congress, is having difficulty, another indication of growing sentiment among high party officials for less authoritarianism. Already the prestigious president of the National Assembly, Sadok Mokaddem, a long-time associate and confidant of Bourguiba, has resigned from the newly selected party executive body. At the party congress, Mokaddem had strongly supported Mestiri on proposed party and governmental reforms such as election of the political bureau by the congress, election rather than nomination by Bourguiba of any presidential successor, and expanded authority for the National Assembly.

The party squabble has even penetrated the heretofore apolitical military, which now is openly discussing political matters. The more senior officers, with a few exceptions, favor the traditionalists. Most junior officers, however, favor the Mestiri faction. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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USSR: Soviet authorities have made their first public reply to accusations that the government is keeping healthy people in psychiatric hospitals because of their unorthodox political views.

Writing in Izvestia, K. Bryantsev alleges that these individuals, who are turned into "martyrs" by unscrupulous Western organizations, are actually criminals. In accord with Soviet law, they are "sent to be cured" because they have committed "socially dangerous acts" while in a state of "irresponsibility" or they became mentally ill during investigation and trial. Quoting a well-known Soviet psychiatrist, the author goes to considerable length to defend the integrity and professional standards of psychiatric medicine in the USSR. He asserts that the possibility of sane individuals being incarcerated in psychiatric hospitals is "completely excluded" in the Soviet Union because examinations are conducted and approved by several doctors.

Bryantsev's defense of a technique used with increasing frequency by Soviet authorities to silence outspoken nonconformists comes on the heels of indications that the dissidents are making a concerted effort to use publicity to force the regime to drop the practice. For example, Zhores Medvedev, a noted biologist who was released from a psychiatric hospital after a wave of international protest last year, recently published abroad an account of his experiences as a "patient." His sense of outrage is probably shared by other scientists and dissidents. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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SWITZERLAND: The national election on 30-31 October will probably return the present four-party coalition to power, but several developments have given the electoral campaign a unique flavor.

There has been a substantial growth in the number of groups contesting for the 200 seats in the National Council (lower house). Legislative authority has been eroded by the rise in importance of the seven-man executive Federal Council and the frequent use of the popular referendum, but the country's bicameral legislature retains broad appointive powers and plays an essential role in foreign affairs.

Swiss television has fostered a proliferation of ideological parties on the left and right by offering paid time to parties campaigning in more than two cantons. Many represent purely local interests, but new groups, such as the European Federalist Party and James Schwarzenbach's Swiss Republican Movement, have taken stands on broader issues. The latter has emerged to appeal to the considerable xenophobic sentiment of the traditional-minded electorate and will share a common list with the ultraconservative National Movement Against Foreign Control. Schwarzenbach, a maverick legislator from Zurich, has sought to cut back the number of foreign workers and residents and is vehemently against ties with the Common Market and its free labor market policy.

In the western part of the country, the local Socialist organizations in Bern and Vaud cantons have disturbed the national party leadership by concluding pre-electoral pacts with the Communists. The latter have little to offer the Socialists in Bern canton, but the Communists maintain a traditional foothold in Vaud.

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Enfranchised last February, women will participate for the first time as candidates for national office. Although over a sixth of the candidates are women, female political leaders have complained about voter apathy toward them.

The political fall-out of these developments will be primarily local, and should not affect the formation of a national coalition. Three of the present government parties--the Socialists, the Radical Democrats, and the Catholic-Conservatives--have already agreed to continue as coalition partners. The small Farmers Party will probably again be the fourth member of government. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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EL SALVADOR - HONDURAS: El Salvador has proposed a new channel for negotiations that could lead to a rapprochement.

The new foreign minister, Walter Beneke, has proposed that the bilateral working group mechanism set up by the OAS after the soccer war in July 1969 be replaced by secret discussions, preferably between the countries' UN representatives. He sees this as the only way to ensure frank exploration of the problems and to keep the discussions from becoming a campaign issue during the Salvadoran elections. In an about-face from El Salvador's previous stand, Beneke is willing to take up the matter of border delineation before agreement has been reached on any of the other problems. The Honduran foreign minister favors Beneke's proposal, but President Cruz and other powerful interests in Honduras still appear to be lukewarm.

There also have been contacts outside of diplomatic channels. Military commanders on both sides of the border have been meeting informally to explore ways of preventing incidents created by their trigger-happy subordinates and by civilians, and news media in both countries are taking noticeably milder tones.

Although Beneke's hope for the resolution of "all problems" by mid-1972 may be an overly optimistic goal, improved relations with progress on defining disputed portions of the border are likely.
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BURMA: The government has awarded a \$9-million contract for offshore exploration to a US firm and plans to use a Japanese loan for oil development to finance it. This is the first time since it seized power in 1962 that the Ne Win government has allowed a foreign firm to engage in drilling operations.

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VENEZUELA: Student disturbances that began on 25 October to commemorate last year's military occupation of Central University have now spread to all major interior cities. Following the death of one youth during a clash between police and students, mobs of students have burned cars and buses and looted stores. Charging that outside groups stirred the student violence, the minister of education has closed all secondary schools until 3 November. Several universities are in various stages of closure and students control some faculties. The US Embassy expects the current wave of violence to diminish soon, but long-standing antipathy between students and the government plainly has not waned despite government efforts to normalize the campuses. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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